

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A method ~~as claimed in claim 28~~ for distributing layer-2 VPN information comprising:

at a first layer-1 provider edge device:

receiving layer-2 VPN information, wherein said receiving said layer-2 VPN information comprises receiving advertising, wherein a mechanism for said advertising comprises at least one inter-carrier BGP session; and
distributing said layer-2 VPN information to a second layer-1 provider edge device using BGP sessions and a discovery mechanism; and

at said second layer-1 provider edge device:

passing said layer-2 VPN information to an attached layer-2 provider edge device.

30. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 further comprising setting up, at said first layer-1 provider edge device, said inter-carrier BGP session to another provider edge device that is a selected one of the following: a layer-2 VPN-based provider edge device, and a layer-2 and layer-3 VPN-based provider edge device.

31. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein said another provider edge device is a part of a provider network and said first layer-1 provider edge device is a part of a sub-provider network.

32. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein said first layer-1 provider edge device and said second layer-1 provider edge device are separated by a backbone.

33. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein said backbone includes a portion of the Internet.

34. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein said another provider edge device interfaces with a VPN.